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Ten Day Pre-calc Syllabus

Douglas J. Shaw
University of Northern Iowa

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Mathematics Scrapbook.

with Helen Prochazka

Doug's 10 day pre-calculus course

Doug Shaw from the University of Northern Iowa has devised this algebra program that many senior secondary maths teachers may be tempted to adopt!

DAY 1

Teach them that $(a+b)/c$ is $(a/c) + (b/c)$

DAY 2

Teach them that $a/(b+c)$ is not $(a/b) + (a/c)$

DAY 3

Teach them that $x/\ln(x)$ is not $1/\ln$

DAY 4

Teach them that the solution of $\sin(kx) = 1$ is not $x = 1/\sin(k)$

DAY 5

Remind them that $a/(b+c)$ is not $(a/b) + (a/c)$

DAY 6

Show them a movie of a student sitting in a field writing ' $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2$ ' and then getting hit by a train.

DAY 7

Remind them that $a/(b+c)$ is not $(a/b) + (a/c)$

DAY 8

Teach them that if the domain of the a function f is the reals, then the graph of $y = f(x)$ is not a blank pair of axes, and that perhaps they should adjust the window.

DAY 9

Teach them that $x/(y+z)$ is not $(x/y) + (x/z)$

DAY 10

Group work.

Bring a trout to class. Have them solve $\sin(kx) = 1$.

If they get $x = 1/\sin(k)$, hit them with the trout.

Make it a big trout.

You can read more of Doug's thoughts at www.dougshaw.com.

A great love

The author of this poem is not known, but clearly he was passionate about the object of his desire!

What is worth loving?

She will be pure.

She will have a timeless beauty.

She will have a spirit that is boundless.

She will be there for all people who ask of her.

She will be so dynamic that she very personifies life.

She will be precise and concise, without ever being harsh or cruel.

She will not be swayed by the society she lives in, or the people around her.

I will feel her presence wherever I go.

I will never know her soul completely, but will always be satiated by it.

I will be frustrated by her complexity, but this is why I will find her so intriguing.

I will be annoyed that she has the answer to everything, but this is why I will admire her so much.

I will find such joy by filling my days sharing her with the world, and amazing people with her beauty.

But in the late hours of the night, I know she will be mine and mine alone.

We will dance and laugh together, as the rest of the world fades away.

To stare into her eyes will be my heart's content.

Her name will be Mathematics.